

Washington State Commission on Pesticide Registration

June 5, 2007

Virtual Meeting

Charles J. Masters, Chair

Approved Minutes

Commissioners in attendance: Byron Phillips at Wenatchee Valley College; Chuck Masters, Gina McCauley and Erik Johansen at the Thurston County Extension Office; Rick Hamman and Doug Walsh at IAREC in Prosser; Ben Barstow in Pullman; and Jay Schafer at Mt. Vernon. Kurt Volker, Ann George, Art Losey and Andy Jensen attended via phone.

Guests in attendance were: Robert Linderman in Corvallis, OR; Vicki McCracken in Pullman; Catherine Daniels in Puyallup; and Jane Thomas at WSU Tri-Cities.

Staff in attendance was Alan Schreiber and Laurie Wishkoski at IAREC in Prosser.

Chair Masters called the meeting to order at 9:06 am.

Introductions

Introductions were made.

Chuck Masters thanked the commissioners for their attendance. Chair Masters then added that this form of meeting would not take place very often because face to face meetings were more productive. Doug Walsh reminded the commissioners that using the mute button when not actively talking would improve the performance of the system.

Chuck Masters requested that, in the interest of time, proposal presentations begin.

07AN051 Robert Linderman

Chuck Masters introduced the forestry proposal with an explanation of why the proposal was being re-presented after it had already been approved. The project was approved but the industry did not approve the match. The reduction in funding meant that the project had to be reworked. Ann George asked if the proposal had been approved previously. Chuck Masters replied that it had but the scope of the project had been changed. Alan Schreiber asked Chuck Masters what the economic significance of this work would be. Chuck Masters said that fusarium is a large problem. Fusarium exists on the seed and contaminates the media and the containers. Both the media and the containers are reused so they need to be decontaminated. Alan Schreiber asked how this would be manifest at Mima nursery. Chuck Masters replied that fusarium causes 10-15% mortality.

Ann George moved to approve the proposal in the amount of \$8120. Kurt Volker seconded the motion. The vote was taken by roll call. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chuck Masters thanked Bob Linderman for the proposal and attending at the Corvallis site.

Washington Agriculture Project Alan Schreiber

Alan Schreiber told the commissioners that the proposal to be voted on was slightly different than the one that had been mailed out. The proposal being presented was the one that had been sent electronically to the commissioners. The change is the proposal resulted from a request by the Washington State Department of Agriculture to have their contributions to the project clarified and re-stated. Alan Schreiber had also provided a list of the crops that have been posted on the website. There had been some initial problems getting the website to work as Alan Schreiber wanted it to function. Agriculture Development Group, Inc. now has the ability to do its own uploading. One of the start up issues addressed at the beginning of the project was the correlating of expectations regarding information collect for both WSDA and ADG. WSDA is receiving information from ADG as well as gathering information for ADG. WSDA is providing maps, photographs and usage data. Alan Schreiber told the commissioners that the work that had been proposed in the initial proposal had been accomplished. Photographs are one of the last things to be added to each crop. Data collection has gotten much more efficient. The expectation is to complete 90 crops in this coming year. In addition to the 90 new crops, work will be done to update the crops that were completed this year. Updating is being done constantly. WSDA had told Alan Schreiber that the work needed to be write-protected. Kurt Volker asked if this had been done. Alan Schreiber replied that the webmaster had been ill but it will be taken care of. It is also unknown at this time whether or not the project will be funded for another year. The site is being to get a critical mass of crops. By the end of next year there will be close to 200 crops on the site.

Byron Phillips asked for clarification as to which proposal was the one being voted on. Alan Schreiber replied that it was the proposal with the lower amount of matching funds. It had been believed that WSDA had paid a significant amount of money to obtain data from the NASS. In fact that money was paid in the previous year. Rick Hamman asked Alan Schreiber if he thought that the timeline was reasonable. It is reasonable but a

difficulty lies in the fact that we keep finding new crops. Alan Schreiber added that we can do 270 crops but there could be more than that. We have done some of the larger more complicated crops so there are no qualms regarding capability.

Doug Walsh said that he had problems with the questionnaires that the WSDA had sent out regarding usage data collecting. Doug Walsh said that it is not possible to say exactly what formulations were applied to 300,000 acres of alfalfa. Erik Johansen from the WSDA said that this was a good point. Erik went on to say that what was expected was a professional estimate. Erik Johansen told the commissioners that he had spoken to others at the WSDA and all felt that the website looked good. Chuck Masters said that he had spent some time going through some of the crops. Chair Masters wanted to know how the editing process was going to work. He had found that there were some typos and the protocol for fast facts was not always the same. Chuck Masters added that some of the information seemed old. The example of dried beans using dimethoate was given. Chuck Masters questioned whether or not this was the right answer and if it was not then he questioned all of the information that was given and whether the crops were being edited. Alan Schreiber replied that these are the very issues that are being wrestled with and reasoning behind the book. Alan gave the example of table beets and trying to find out what portion of the table beets grown in the U.S. are grown in Washington. This information does not exist for some crops. There are times when we have to rely on government statistics and they tend to be older. If the information is less than current then it is so noted by giving it a date for reference. Only the older information is dated. It is also quite possible that there has been no significant change in chemical usage or practices. Many of these crops are of such low value that the very cheapest product is what is used. Review is not always possible due to the people that give the information. Kurt Volker said that as the project has moved forward it has gotten better and has been more productive. Kurt Volker has concerns with the issue of write protection and the review process. Kurt did agree that there is not always a person to do the review. For the major crops there should be review. Kurt Volker added that the editing process still needs work. Overall Kurt Volker felt that the project was better than he anticipated. Kurt Volker said that problems had been worked out that were both political and technical and the project has moved forward.

Kurt Volker moved to fund the Washington Agriculture Project for another year. Jay Schafer seconded the motion.

Erik Johansen added that small crops are the type on which information is harder to find so the WSDA was highly appreciative of the information that was gathered. Alan Schreiber replied that this was good information. The WSDA has been selecting crops that would relate to the ESA areas where they are working.

Ann George called for the question.

The vote was taken by roll call. The motion passed unanimously.

Kurt Volker gave direction on how to write protect a document. Chuck Masters told the commissioners that Kurt Volker had agreed to provide oversight to the project in the coming year.

Pesticide Notification Network Jane Thomas

PNN is an information system that keeps a targeted distribution list informed of changes within the pesticide industry. Jan Thomas gave statistics on dissemination from and hits on the PNN site. Meeting with Oregon resulted in a change in how SLN's were posted. Washington wanted to follow suit and change also. SLN's can now be sorted six ways. Jane Thomas reported on an article in a WSU publication that let vegetable growers be aware of PNN as a resource.

Kurt Volker asked Jane Thomas what Oregon contributed to PNN. Oregon makes no contribution to PNN. The services have always been provided as a service to growers that have sites in both states. Byron Phillips asked if the WSCPR is acknowledged. It is acknowledged with every email and mailing. Erik Johansen thanked Jane Thomas for making PNN much more user friendly.

Catherine Daniels took over with the budget. The budget contains a request for a computer. The budget also reflects a change in the percentage for Jane Thomas. Alan Schreiber questioned the reason for requesting a raise before it is known whether or not WSU actually gave raises. Catherine Daniels replied that PNN had not asked for an increase in 2005 and had had to cover the shortfall in the budget. They are required by WSU to request the increase. Catherine Daniels said that they were promising to return the overage if it was not used for this specific purpose. Vicki McCracken, liaison with WSU, agreed that this was the recommended procedure.

Byron Phillips asked whether this request was reflected in the WSCPR budget. Alan Schreiber replied that currently the WSCPR had not allocated all that WSU recommends. Kurt Volker asked if there was a reduction in funding for WSU this year. There is not. Kurt Volker asked if more funding for WSU meant that some of the funding for the WSCPR that had been reduced in past years would be restored. Vicki McCracken replied that the money allotted by the legislature was targeted.

<p><i>Ann George moved to approve the request as presented. Kurt Volker seconded the motion. Vote was taken by roll call. The motion passed with one vote against.</i></p>
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Financial Report

Alan Schreiber gave the financial report. The expenses for the Commission were essentially done. Alan Schreiber explained the expenses. The only area that was over budget was the travel and meetings designation. Alan Schreiber explained the accounts receivable and the balance in the account. Projections are made and explained. The amount of overage in the travel and meetings budget is less than the amount that was not spent in the administration expenses. Alan Schreiber explained the items listed in the check detail.

Rick Hamman moved to approve the financial report. Byron Phillips seconded the motion. The vote was taken by roll call. The motion passed unanimously.

Commission Budget

Alan Schreiber explained to the Commission that efforts are made to keep expenses down. This has been more difficult to do because of increasing prices. Alan Schreiber went over historical budgets. The proposed budget categories are each explained. Ben Barstow asked Alan Schreiber how he expected to reduce expenditures. Alan Schreiber replied that this category has more allotted than is needed. It is not being spent at this time. The excess will be moved into the meetings and travel budget. Alan Schreiber said that the administrative fee would remain the same.

Byron Phillips moved to approve the proposed budget. Ben Barstow seconded the motion. The vote was taken by roll call. The motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Services

Alan Schreiber told the commissioners that it was his understanding of their directions that the administrative services would continue but that the position needed to be put out for competitive bid on a regular basis. This year the contract would be issued on a sole source basis.

Ann George moved to award the administrative contract to Alan Schreiber dba Agriculture Development Group as a sole source contract for one more year. The position will go out for bid next year. Kurt Volker seconded the motion. Vote was taken by roll call. The motion passed unanimously.

Alan Schreiber said that he would email the contract out to the commissioners. Chuck Masters asked to have any concerns emailed to him by the end of the week. Gina McCauley asked for clarification on the review process. Alan Schreiber replied that it is important for the process to be transparent. It is also important that everyone who is a part of the Commission feels that they have a say in the administration of this Commission. This is the time to note any concerns regarding things that need to be done or need to be done differently.

Memorandum of Agreement

Alan Schreiber told that commissioners that authorization needed to be made for the Chair to negotiate the agreement between WSU and WSCPR. A vote is necessary to authorize the Chair to make any changes. Alan Schreiber said that he did not see any needed changes but did feel that it was important that WSU adhere to the agreement. Chuck Masters said that he would be willing to work on the contract.

Byron Phillips moved to authorize Chuck Masters to negotiate the memorandum of agreement with WSU. Kurt Volker seconded the motion.

Vicki McCracken said that she would follow up with the concerns and would like to have more details.

The vote was taken by roll call. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes

Chair Masters asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes.

Ben Barstow moved to accept the minutes as presented. Byron Phillips seconded the motion. The vote was taken by roll call. The motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Report

Alan Schreiber told the commissioners that there was nothing problematic to report at this time. Money is coming back from unexpended projects. There has been some difficulty getting money out of WSU. Reimbursements sometimes just go from department to department without questions being resolved or payment made.

Alan Schreiber gave an update on the status of the WSCPR Minor Crops Pest Management Tour. The Tour will not use the Red Lion as home base this year. The cost of the rooms was prohibitive. The Tour will use the Holiday Inn at SeaTac instead. In Long Beach the Tour will stay at the Super 8. Alan Schreiber asked the commissioners if any of them were planning on going on the Tour. Chuck Masters and Kurt Volker are planning on attending the Tour. Dan Robinson and Byron Phillips are hoping to but were unable to give a definite answer at that time. Erik Johansen said that he was unsure of his availability. Erik Johansen said that he thought that he would be able to accompany the tour on Day 2 but was unsure of the first day. Gina McCauley will be with the tour for Wednesday and Thursday. Discussion of possible invitees took place.

Chair Masters asked if there was any other business. Erik Johansen told the commissioners that nine Section 18's had been requested and eight of them had been approved. Erik Johansen was asked why there were so many fewer requests than previously. Many of the earlier Section 18 requests have been replaced by SLN's (Section 24c) or Section 13's.

Alan Schreiber told the commissioners that Gary Chandler's appearance had been scheduled but at the last minute there was a time conflict. Alan Schreiber said that he would see if Gary Chandler could attend the next meeting. It would be good to present to him what is going on in the Commission to get feedback from him. Gary Chandler is one of the architects of the WSCPR. It would also be beneficial to get his opinion on whether or not WSCPR should receive more money. Alan Schreiber told the commissioners that Gary Chandler is very proud of the WSCPR. The next meeting will be in Eltopia on July 11, 2007.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:11 am.